IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-13 (canceled).

14.   (new) An information searching method comprising the steps of

inputting a search inquiry character train into a first block;

forming a summary word list including a plurality of words to be searched based on both the search inquiry character train inputted through the inputting step and data having been stored in advance in a database provided within a second block;

further inputting a restricting condition for narrowing down search targets for the plurality of words to be searched, the restricting condition being selected from a group including an existence of an indispensable word, and an existence of a taboo word;

storing a plurality of documents respectively having similarity with the summary word list formed at the forming step into a search result candidates holding module;

judging whether or not the restricting condition is satisfied for each document of a plurality of documents respectively including at least one of the plurality of words having been searched within the further inputting step;

comparing a number of documents stored in the search result candidates holding module and a predetermined requested number if it is judged that the restriction condition is satisfied;

in case that a number of documents in the search result candidates holding module number is determined to be smaller than the predetermined requested number N through a comparison at the comparing step, adding the document to the search result candidates holding module;

otherwise, calculating similarity score for the document, and comparing a similarity score with the smallest similarity of documents among the documents in the search result candidates holding module;

in case the similarity score is larger than the smallest similarity, adding the document to the search result candidates holding module; and

outputting the documents added to the search result candidates holding module in a descending order of the similarity score as the search results.

15.   (new) An information searching method comprising the steps of inputting a search inquiry character train into a first block;

forming a summary word list including a plurality of words to be searched based on both the search inquiry character train input through the inputting step and data having been stored in advance in a database provided within a second block;

further inputting a restricting condition for narrowing down search targets for the plurality of words to be searched, the restricting condition being selected from a group including an existence of an indispensable word, and an existence of a taboo;

storing a plurality of documents respectively having similarity with the summary word list formed at the forming step into a search result

candidates holding module;

calculating similarity score for each document of the plurality of documents respectively having similarity with the summary word list formed at the forming step;

comparing a number of documents in the search result candidates holding module and a predetermined requested number; in case that a number of documents in the search result candidates module is larger than or equal to the requested number, further comparing the similarity score of the document with the smallest similarity of documents among the documents in the search result candidates holding module;

in case that a number of documents in the search result candidates module is determined to be smaller than the requested number or the similarity score of the document is larger than the smallest similarity of the candidates through a comparison at the further comparing step, judging whether or not the restricting condition is satisfied for each of the documents for which similarity score was calculated in the similarity score calculating step;

in case the document satisfies the restricting condition, adding the document to the search result candidates holding module; and

outputting the documents added to the search result candidates holding means in a descending order of the similarity score as the search results.